

Listing of the Claims

Please amend claim 34 add new claims 36-37 as follows. The changes in these claims from their immediate prior version are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ or [[double brackets]] for deleted matter and underlines for added language. A complete listing of the claims with proper claims identifiers follows. This listing replaces all previous listings and versions of claims in the application.

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein an additional high-potency sweetener selected from the group consisting of aspartame, alitame, salts of acesulfame, cyclamate and its salts, saccharin and its salts, sucralose, thaumatin, monellin, dihydrochalcone, glycyrrhizin, stevioside and combinations thereof is mixed with the N-substituted derivative of aspartame before it is applied in the rolling compound.

7-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26 wherein an additional high-potency sweetener selected from the group consisting of aspartame, alitame, salts of acesulfame, cyclamate and its salts, saccharin and its salts, sucralose, thaumatin, monellin, dihydrochalcone, glycyrrhizin, stevioside, and combinations thereof is mixed with the N-substituted derivative of aspartame in the coating.

12-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A method of producing a chewing gum product containing a N-substituted derivative of aspartame wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is applied as a part of a rolling compound applied on the chewing gum product.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 24 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is selected from the group consisting of:

a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;

b) N-[N-[3-(4-hydroxy-3-menthoxyphenyl)propyl]-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester; and

c) N-[N-(3-phenylpropyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

26. (Previously presented) A method of producing a chewing gum product containing a N-substituted derivative of aspartame wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is applied as a part of a coating on a chewing gum pellet, the coating being formed by a panning procedure.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 26 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is selected from the group consisting of:

a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;

b) N-[N-[3-(4-hydroxy-3-menthoxyphenyl)propyl]-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester; and

c) N-[N-(3-phenylpropyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame comprises
N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame comprises
N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is incorporated in the rolling compound applied to the product such that it releases from the product more quickly when chewed than if the N-substituted derivative of aspartame were mixed into the chewing gum in an untreated fashion.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is incorporated in the panned coating on the product such that it releases from the product more quickly when chewed than if the N-substituted derivative of aspartame were mixed into the chewing gum in an untreated fashion.

34. (Currently amended) A coated chewing gum product comprising[[:]]:

- a) a chewing gum pellet;
- b) a coating on the pellet formed by a panning procedure and comprising [[a]] an N-substituted derivative of aspartame.

35. (Previously presented) The coated chewing gum product of claim 34 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame comprises N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

36. (New) A chewing gum product comprising:

- a) a chewing composition formed into a chewing gum piece; and
- b) a rolling compound on the piece comprising an N-substituted derivative of aspartame.

37. (New)* The chewing gum product of claim 36 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame comprises N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.